

VIRGINIA BOARD FOR GEOLOGY



REGULATIONS

Last Updated November 1, 2006

STATUTES

Title 54.1, Chapter 14



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NOTICE OF REGULATORY CHANGES

These regulations became effective on August 1, 2006 and November 1, 2006. The following is a summary of these changes:

Effective on August 1, 2006 the Board deleted language redundant to the *Code of Virginia*; amended the language establishing the fee for the certification examination; repealed the language establishing a dishonored check fee; amended the qualifications for certification to more clearly articulate the requirements that must be fulfilled prior to qualifying for certification; amended the certification by reciprocity standards; added a section requiring the Board to be notified in the event of a change in name or address of a regulant; and amended the grounds for certification denial or disciplinary action as the result of a criminal conviction.

Effective November 1, 2006 the Board reduced the certification renewal fee from \$80 to \$35 and the fee for a certification reinstatement from \$160 to \$40.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This booklet contains the information you will need to obtain your certificate as a Geologist. The law that governs your profession is found in the **Chapter 14 (§ 54.1-1400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the *Code of Virginia***. That law permits the board to issue regulations that tell you more about what is expected of you in your profession. This booklet contains a copy of the regulations that you will need to know and obey to get and keep your license, certificate, or registration.

BE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT. YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THESE STANDARDS COULD RESULT IN A MONETARY PENALTY, THE LOSS OF YOUR CERTIFICATE, OR OTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

It is the goal of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to provide you with the information you need to comply with the law and regulations. If you have a question and cannot find the answer in this booklet, please write to:

Board for Geology
Perimeter Center
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9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, VA 23233

Or call the Agency at (804) 367-8595
Or e-mail at geology@dpor.virginia.gov

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PART I
GENERAL

18 VAC 70-20-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board" means the Board for Geology.

"Geologist" means a person engaged in the public practice of geology.

"Geology" means the science dealing with (i) the earth and its history in general; (ii) the investigation, prediction, evaluation, and location of materials and structures which compose the earth; (iii) the natural processes that cause changes in the earth; and (iv) the application of knowledge of the earth, its processes, and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other natural materials.

"Practice of geology" means the performance of any service or work for the general public wherein the principles and methods of geology are applied.

"Qualified geologist" means an uncertified person who possesses all the qualifications specified in §54.1-1403 of the Code of Virginia for certification.

"Related geological science degree" means a degree that shall include, but not be limited to, a degree in economic geology or petroleum geology.

"Responsible charge" means the direct control and supervision of the practice of geology.

"Supervision" means quality control review of all significant data collection, interpretation and conclusions.

"Virginia certified professional geologist" means a person who possesses all qualifications specified in this chapter for certification and whose competence has been attested by the board through certification.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.1, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-20. [Repealed]

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.2, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-30. Fees.

All fees for application, examination, renewal, and reinstatement shall be established by the board pursuant to §54.1-201 of the Code of Virginia. All fees are nonrefundable and shall not be prorated.

1. The application fee for certification shall be \$40.
2. The fee for renewal of certification shall be \$35.
3. The fee for examination or reexamination is subject to contracted charges to the department by an outside vendor. These contracts are competitively negotiated and bargained for in compliance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§2.2-4300 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Fees may be adjusted and charged to the candidate in accordance with this contract.
4. The penalty fee for late renewal shall be \$25 in addition to the renewal fee.
5. The reinstatement fee shall be \$40.
6. The fee for duplicate wall certificates shall be \$25.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.3, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 18, eff. July 1, 1999; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006; Volume 22, Issue 26, eff. November 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-40. Expiration, renewal and fee of certificate holders.

- A. Certificates issued under this chapter shall expire on August 31 of the odd-numbered year following the date of issuance. Certificate holders shall be notified by mail of the fee and the procedure for certificate renewal at least 45 days before the certificate expires. Each certificate holder desiring to renew his certificate shall submit the renewal notice with the appropriate fee before the certificate expires.
- B. There shall be a penalty fee for late renewal assessed in addition to the renewal fee for any certificate holder failing to renew the certificate within 30 days following the date of expiration.

- C. Failure to receive written notice from the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation does not relieve the regulant from the requirement to renew his certificate. If the certificate holder fails to receive the renewal notice, a copy of the certificate may be submitted with the required fee.
- D. The date a fee is received by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, or its agent, will be used to determine whether a penalty fee or the requirement for reinstatement of a certificate is applicable.
- E. Revoked or suspended certificates are not renewable until reinstated by the board.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.4, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-50. Reinstatements.

If the certificate holder fails to renew the certificate within six months following the expiration date, the certificate holder will be required to apply for reinstatement of the certificate. The board may grant reinstatement of the certificate, or require requalification or reexamination, or both. The application fee for reinstatement of a certificate shall be the amount established in 18 VAC 70-20-30.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.5, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006; Volume 22, Issue 26, eff. November 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-60. Status of certification during the period prior to reinstatement.

- A. Reinstated certifications shall continue to have the same certification number and shall expire on August 31 of the odd-numbered year following the date of reinstatement.
- B. Reinstated certifications shall be regarded as having been continuously licensed without interruption. Therefore, the holder of the reinstated certification shall remain under the disciplinary authority of the board during this entire period and may be held accountable for his activities during this period.
- C. Certifications which are not renewed or reinstated shall be regarded as expired from the date of the expiration forward.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.6, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; amended, Virginia Register volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-70. Use of seal.

A certified professional geologist may apply a rubber stamp or preprinted seal to final and complete cover sheets and to each original sheet of plans or drawings prepared or reviewed and approved by the regulant. The seal may be applied to the cover sheet of technical reports and specifications prepared or reviewed and approved by the regulant.

1. All seal imprints on final documents shall be signed.
2. Application of the seal and signature shall indicate acceptance of responsibility for work shown thereon.
3. The seal shall conform in detail and size to the design illustrated below:



* The number referred to is the number, usually three or four digits, as shown on the wall certificate and is the license renewal number issued each biennium as indicated on the licensee's pocket card. The number will not change every two years, but is permanent.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §1.7, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

PART II

ENTRY

18 VAC 70-20-80. Qualifications for certification.

A. Each applicant for certification as a certified professional geologist in Virginia shall:

- 1. Make application on forms provided by the board;**
- 2. Be of ethical character;**
- 3. Hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a major in geology, engineering geology, geological engineering or a related geological science. In the absence of one of the aforementioned degrees, each applicant shall provide evidence of the satisfactory completion of 30 semester hours (or the equivalent) of geological science courses including, but not limited to, the following subjects:**
 - a. Stratigraphy;**
 - b. Structural geology;**
 - c. Mineralogy;**
 - d. Paleontology;**
 - e. Petrology;**
 - f. Geomorphology; and**
 - g. Field geology.**

At least 12 semester hours must have been completed in four of the seven subjects listed in this subsection.

- 4. Provide the board with written documentation that demonstrates that the courses satisfactorily completed by the applicant are equivalent to those required by this section.**
- 5. Have at least seven years of geological work that shall include either a minimum of three years of geological work under the supervision of a qualified or certified professional geologist, or a minimum of three years of experience in responsible charge of geological work. The work shall include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following areas:**
 - a. Mineralogy.**

- (1) Identify and classify major rock types.**
- (2) Identify mineral assemblages.**
- (3) Determine probable genesis and sequence of mineral assemblages.**
- (4) Identify minerals on the basis of chemical composition.**
- (5) Predict subsurface mineral characteristics on the basis of exposures and drillholes.**

b. Petrography/petrology.

- (1) Identify and classify major rock types.**
- (2) Determine physical properties of rocks.**
- (3) Determine chemical properties of rocks.**
- (4) Determine types or degrees of rock alteration.**
- (5) Determine suites of rock types.**

c. Geochemistry.

- (1) Establish analytical objectives and approaches.**
- (2) Evaluate geochemical data.**
- (3) Construct models based on results of geochemical analysis.**
- (4) Make recommendations based upon results of geochemical analyses.**

d. Hydrogeology.

- (1) Design and interpret hydrologic testing programs.**
- (2) Utilize chemical data to evaluate hydrogeologic conditions.**
- (3) Apply geophysical methods to analyze hydrogeologic conditions.**
- (4) Determine physical and chemical properties of aquifers and vadose zones.**
- (5) Determine groundwater flow systems.**
- (6) Evaluate groundwater resources.**
- (7) Evaluate groundwater quality.**
- (8) Design wells and drilling programs.**
- (9) Develop groundwater resource management plans.**
- (10) Plan and evaluate remedial action programs.**

e. Engineering geology.

- (1) Provide geological information and interpretations for engineering design.
- (2) Identify and evaluate potential seismic and other geologic hazards.
- (3) Provide geologic consultation during and after construction.
- (4) Develop and interpret engineering geology maps and sections.
- (5) Evaluate materials resources.
- (6) Define and establish site selection and evaluation criteria.
- (7) Design and implement field and laboratory programs.
- (8) Describe and sample soils for geologic analysis and materials properties testing.

f. Mining geology.

- (1) Formulate exploration programs.
- (2) Implement field investigations on prospects.
- (3) Perform geologic interpretations for mineral reserves.
- (4) Perform economic analyses/appraisals.
- (5) Provide geologic interpretations for mine development and production activities.
- (6) Provide geologic interpretations for mine abandonments, closures, or restorations.

g. Petroleum geology.

- (1) Formulate exploration programs.
- (2) Implement field investigations on prospects.
- (3) Perform geologic interpretations of physical properties and hydrocarbon reserves.
- (4) Perform petroleum economic analyses/appraisals.
- (5) Provide geologic interpretations for development and production activities.
- (6) Provide geologic interpretations for abandonments, closures, or restorations.

- B. Each year of full-time undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as one-half year of experience up to a maximum of two years, and each year of full-time graduate**

study shall count as a year of experience up to a maximum of three years. Credit for undergraduate and graduate study shall in no case exceed a total of four years toward meeting the requirements for at least seven years of geological work. The board may consider in lieu of the above-described geological work, the cumulative total of geological work or geological research of persons occupying research or post-graduate positions as well as those teaching geology courses at the college or university level, provided such work or research can be demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to the geological work required above.

- C. A year of full-time employment is a minimum of 1,760 hours or 220 workdays in a 12-month period. More than 1,760 hours or 220 workdays during a 12-month period shall not be considered as more than one year of full-time experience. Partial credit may be given for actual hours of work or workdays experience if the applicant works as a geologist less than full time.
- D. Each applicant shall successfully pass an appropriate examination approved by the board and designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §2.1, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-90. Waiver of examination.

The board may waive the examination requirement for any applicant who makes written application, otherwise meets the requirements of Chapter 14 (§54.1-1400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and also meets one of the following conditions:

1. Provides evidence of at least 12 years of geological work that includes the geological work as specified in 18 VAC 70-20-80; or
2. Provides evidence of an unexpired certificate of registration, certification or license to engage in the practice of geology issued on the basis of comparable requirements by a proper authority of a state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §2.2, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

PART III
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

18 VAC 70-20-100. Disclosure.

A certified professional geologist:

1. Shall not submit any false statements or fail to disclose any facts requested concerning his or another's application for certification.
2. Shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation or business of another.
3. Shall not engage in any fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in advertising, in soliciting or in providing professional services.
4. Shall not knowingly sign, stamp, or seal any plans, drawings, blueprints, surveys, reports, specifications, or other documents not prepared or reviewed and approved by the certificate holder.
5. Shall make full disclosure to all parties of:
 - a. Any transaction involving payments made to any person for the purpose of securing a contract, assignment, or engagement; or
 - b. Any monetary, financial or beneficial interest he may have in any contract or entity providing goods or services, other than his professional services, to a project or engagement.
6. Shall express an opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge of established facts at issue, on a background of technical competence in the subject matter, and on an honest conviction of the accuracy of the testimony when serving as an expert or technical witness before any court, commission, or other tribunal.
7. Shall provide adequate representation of his qualifications and scope of responsibilities for all previous experience claimed when negotiating with prospective clients.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.1, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-105. Change of address or name.

Each certified professional geologist shall notify the board, in writing, of any change of address or name. This notification shall be sent to the board within 30 days after such change of address or name.

Historical Notes:

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 21, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-110. Compliance with other laws.

A certified professional geologist:

1. Shall comply with all federal, state, and local building, fire, safety, real estate, or mining codes, as well as any other laws, codes, ordinances, or regulations pertaining to the practice of geology.
2. Shall not violate any state or federal criminal statute, including fraud, misrepresentation, embezzlement, bribery, theft, forgery, or breach of fiduciary duty relating to his professional practice.
3. Shall immediately notify the client or employer and the appropriate regulatory agency if his professional judgment is overruled and not adhered to in circumstances of a serious threat to the public health, safety, or welfare. If appropriate remedial action is not taken within a reasonable amount of time after making the report, he shall notify the appropriate governmental authority of the specific nature of the public threat.
4. Shall give written notice to the board, and shall cooperate with the board and the department in furnishing any further information or assistance needed, if he knows or believes that another geologist/firm may be violating any of the provisions of Chapter 14 (§54.1-1400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia, or this chapter.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.2, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-120. Conflicts of interest.

A certified professional geologist shall not:

1. Accept any work on any project or other professional engagement when a duty to a client or to the public would conflict with his personal interest or the interest of another client, unless immediate disclosure of all material facts of the conflict is made to each client related to the project or engagement.

2. Accept compensation for services related to the same project or professional engagement from more than one party without making prior full disclosure to all parties involved.
3. Offer, either directly or indirectly, any commission, political contribution, or other consideration in seeking work except to secure a salaried position through employment agencies.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.3, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-130. Competence for assignments.

A certified professional geologist:

1. Shall exercise reasonable care when rendering professional services and shall apply the technical knowledge and skills ordinarily applied by practicing geologists.
2. Shall not accept any professional assignment or engagement that he is not competent to perform by way of education, technical knowledge, or experience. An assignment requiring education or experience outside his field of competence may be accepted provided:
 - a. His professional services are restricted to those phases of the project in which he is qualified; and
 - b. All other phases of the project are performed by qualified associates, consultants, or employees.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.4, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

18 VAC 70-20-140. Grounds for suspension, revocation, or denial to renew or grant certification.

The board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the certification of any geologist who, after a formal hearing as provided for in the Administrative Process Act (§2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), is found to have committed:

1. Fraud or deceit in obtaining or renewing certification (See subdivision 5 of §54.1-111 of the Code of Virginia);
2. Any violation of Part III - Standards of Practice and Conduct, other regulations of the board, or governing statutes of the board;

3. An act or acts of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of geology as a certified professional geologist; or
4. Any conviction of a felony that in the opinion of the board would adversely affect the practice of geology.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.5, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2006.

18 VAC 70-20-150. Reissuance of certificate after revocation.

An individual whose certificate has been revoked in accordance with 18 VAC 70-20-140 shall file a new application and obtain approval of the board to regain the certificate.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR335-01-2 §3.6, eff. February 1, 1988; amended, Virginia Register Volume 7, Issue 13, eff. April 24, 1991; Volume 11, Issue 6, eff. February 1, 1995.

NOTICE

Included in this booklet are relevant excerpts from the *Code of Virginia*. Please note that the Virginia General Assembly is responsible for creating and amending the *Code*, not the Board for Geology. The version contained herein contains all changes, if any, that have been made by the General Assembly through the 2007 session. Any changes made during the 2007 session became effective July 1, 2007, unless otherwise noted. It is your responsibility to stay informed of revisions to the regulations and the statutes governing your profession or occupation. Please consult the General Assembly or your local library for annual changes.

CODE OF VIRGINIA TITLE 54.1

CHAPTER 14 GEOLOGISTS

§ 54.1-1400. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Board" means the Board for Geology.

"Geologist" means a person engaged in the public practice of geology.

"Geology" means the science dealing with (i) the earth and its history in general; (ii) the investigation, prediction, evaluation, and location of materials and structures which compose the earth; (iii) the natural processes that cause changes in the earth; and (iv) the application of knowledge of the earth, its processes, and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases, and other natural materials.

"Practice of geology" means the performance of any service or work for the general public wherein the principles and methods of geology are applied.

"Qualified geologist" means an uncertified person who possesses all the qualifications specified in this chapter for certification.

"Virginia certified professional geologist" means a person who possesses all qualifications specified in this chapter for certification and whose competence has been attested by the Board through certification.

(1981, c. 132, § 54-962; 1988, c. 765.)

§ 54.1-1401. Exemptions.

A. The certification program set forth in this chapter is voluntary and shall not be construed to prevent or affect the practice of geology by uncertified geologists; however, no person may represent himself as a Virginia certified professional geologist unless he has been so certified by the Board.

B. This chapter shall not prevent or affect the practice of any profession or trade for which licensing, certification, or registration is required under any other Virginia law, including the practice of licensed professional engineers lawfully practicing engineering in its various specialized branches.

(1981, c. 132, § 54-968; 1988, c. 765.)

§ 54.1-1402. Board membership; officers; quorum.

The Board for Geology shall be composed of five members as follows: three geologists of varied geological backgrounds and two citizen members. Each geologist member of the Board shall be a Virginia certified professional geologist under this chapter. Board members shall serve four-year terms. The Board shall elect a chairman from its membership. A quorum of the Board shall consist of not fewer than three members, two of whom shall be geologist members. In addition to the appointed Board members, the State Geologist shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board. *The Board shall establish regulations necessary for the reasonable administration of this chapter.*

(1981, c. 132, § 54-963; 1988, cc. 42, 765.)

§ 54.1-1403. Certification; minimum qualifications.

A. Any person practicing or offering to practice as a geologist or in a geological specialty in this Commonwealth may submit reasonable evidence to the Board that he is qualified to practice and to be certified as herein provided. The Board shall approve the application for certification of any person who, in the opinion of the Board, has satisfactorily met the requirements of this chapter and who has paid any applicable fees fixed by the Board.

Certifications shall expire at intervals as designated by the Board. A certification may be renewed by the Board upon receipt of a formal request accompanied by any applicable fees.

B. To be eligible for certification as a professional geologist, an applicant shall meet each of the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be of ethical character.
2. Have a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university with either a major in geology, engineering geology, geological engineering, or related geological sciences; or have completed at least thirty semester hours or the equivalent in geological science courses leading to a major in geology.

3. Have at least seven years of geological work which shall include either a minimum of three years of geological work under the supervision of a qualified or certified professional geologist, or a minimum of three years of experience in responsible charge of geological work. The adequacy of the position and the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the Board in accordance with standards set forth in its regulations. The following criteria of education and experience qualify toward the required seven years of geological work:

a. Each year of full-time undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as one-half year of experience up to a maximum of two years, and each year of full-time graduate study shall count as a year of experience up to a maximum of three years. Credit for undergraduate and graduate study shall in no case exceed a total of four years toward meeting the requirements for at least seven years of geological work.

b. The Board may consider in lieu of the above-described geological work, the cumulative total of geological work or geological research of persons occupying research or post-graduate positions as well as those teaching geology courses at the college or university level, provided such work or research can be demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to the geological work required above.

4. Successfully pass an appropriate examination approved by the Board and designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.

At the discretion of the Board, separate examinations may be prepared for various subsections of geology; however, there will be no specialty certification, only certification as a professional geologist.

(1981, c. 132, §§ 54-964, 54-965; 1984, c. 51; 1988, c. 765.)

§ 54.1-1404. Waiver of examination.

The Board may waive the examination requirement for certification as a professional geologist for an applicant who otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter and who also meets any of the following conditions:

1. Makes written application to the Board and has at least twelve years of geological work which includes the geological work as specified in subsection B of § 54.1-1403.

2. Makes written application to the Board and holds an unexpired certificate of registration, certification, or license to engage in the practice of geology issued to him on the basis of comparable requirements by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia.

(1981, c. 132, § 54-966; 1988, c. 765; 1994, c. 247; 1996, c. 49.)

§ 54.1-1405. Professional ethics and conduct.

A. The Board, in coordination with an ad hoc panel of certified professional geologists convened by the Board and representing various geological interests in Virginia, shall have prepared and

adopt a Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct which shall be published and made known in writing to every Virginia certified professional geologist and applicant for certification under this chapter. The Board may revise and amend this code as needed and shall forthwith notify each certified professional geologist in writing of such revisions or amendments.

B. The full Board, by majority vote, shall have the power to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the certification of any professional geologist who, after an appropriate formal hearing, is found to have been involved in:

- 1. Any fraud or deceit in obtaining certification;**
- 2. Any violation of the Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct or other regulations of the Board;**
- 3. Demonstrated gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of geology as a professional geologist; or**
- 4. Any conviction of a felony which in the opinion of the Board would adversely affect the practice of geology.**

C. The Board, by majority vote of the quorum, may reinstate a revoked or suspended certification to any professional geologist who makes written application to the Board showing good cause for such action.

(1981, c. 132, § 54-967; 1988, c. 765.)

